City of Barrie

70 Collier Street
P.O. Box 400
Barrie, ON L4M 4T5

Final

Seniors and Accessibility Advisory Committee

Monday, October 16, 2023 | **4:00 PM** | **Sir Robert Barrie Room**

SENIORS AND ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT
For consideration by the Community Safety Committee on November 8, 2023.

The meeting was called to order by R. Meier 5:06 p.m. The following were in attendance for the meeting:

Present: 8 - W. Delo
R. Garvin
G. Kavanagh
C. Kenwell
R. Meier
K MacDonald
L. Pope
D. Smith

Absent: 2 - Councillor N. Nigussie
E. Saba

STAFF:
Manager of Parks Planning, K. Bradley
Abilities and Accessibility Management Specialist, C. Dillon
Culture Development Officer, A. Dyke
Deputy City Clerk, T. McArthur
Legislative Coordinator, S. Drury.

The Seniors and Accessibility Advisory Committee met and reports as follows:

SECTION "A"

PRESENTATION CONCERNING PLAYGROUND COMMUNICATION BOARDS

Jennifer Harvey provided a presentation entitled “Playground Communication Boards”.

Ms. Harvey discussed slides concerning the following topics:

- Challenges nonverbal children face in a playground setting;
- The role of inclusivity in playgrounds; and
- Playground communication boards.

Members of Committee asked a number of questions to Ms. Harvey and received responses.

BARRIE ARTS AWARDS AND SENIORS AND ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE SPONSORSHIP

Amanda Dyke, Culture Development Officer, provided a presentation entitled “Barrie Arts Awards”.

Ms. Dyke discussed slides concerning the following topics:

- Event details;
- Purpose of event; and
- Artist Beyond Barriers Award.

Members of Committee asked a number of questions to Ms. Dyke and received responses.

The Committee approved an expenditure from the Seniors and Accessibility Advisory Committee budget of $1,500 to sponsor the Artist Beyond Barriers Award.

PAINSWICK PARK UPDATE

Kevin Bradley, Manager of Parks Planning, provided an update on the Painswick Park redevelopment. Mr. Bradley reported that a number of Council members have received concerns about the accessibility of the main parking lot in Painswick Park.

The Committee asked Mr. Bradley a number of questions that included the current physical condition of the parking lot, the environmental considerations of different surface materials, the maintenance of the parking lot, potential upgrades to lighting, signage, curbing, and parking lines; and the steep gradient of the entrance to the park from Big Bay Point.

The Committee agreed to put a motion forward in support of staff investigating the design and reconstruction of the Painswick Park main parking lot.

The Seniors and Accessibility Advisory Committee met and recommends adoption of the following recommendation(s):

SECTION "B"

INVESTIGATION - DESIGN AND RECONSTRUCTION OF THE MAIN PARKING LOT IN PAINSWICK PARK

That staff in the Development Services Department be directed to investigate the feasibility of designing and reconstructing the main parking lot in Painswick Park to a fully accessible asphalt parking lot and that the project be considered in the ten year capital budget for completion in 2024 subject to available funding.

This matter was recommended (Section "B") to Community Safety Committee for consideration of adoption at its meeting to be held on 2023-11-08.

The Seniors and Accessibility Advisory Committee met and reports as follows:

SECTION "C"

WORK PLAN

The Committee discussed a number of items listed on the draft work plan for the 2022 - 2026 term.

The items included:

- Accessible, affordable, and available housing;
- Accessible Transportation:
    - Transit to key destinations;

- Barriers to communicating with the community;
- Possibility of sending communications through mail merging with the City's water bill;
- Using the Seniors and Accessibility Fair as an opportunity to ask the community about how best to communicate with them; and
- Collaborating with other advisory committees, such as the Active Transportation and Sustainability Committee.

The Committee agreed to add "Establishing the Seniors and Accessibility Fair" as a monthly standing agenda item.

The Committee agreed to invite staff from Marketing and Communications in Access Barrie to come to the next meeting to speak about how to communicate with the community after the move of the Barrie Advance newspaper to a digital-only model.

The Committee agreed to invite staff from Barrie Transit to come to the next meeting to speak about accessible transit in Barrie, particularly transit to key destinations such as recreational spaces and emergency services.

The Committee agreed to invite representatives from the County of Simcoe's Accessibility Advisory Committee and Age-Friendly Community Advisory Committee to come and speak at a future meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

CHAIRMAN